

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a continuous strand mat, the strands coming from at least one roving thrown onto a conveyor belt, the method comprising:

paying-out at least one roving package supported on a spindle via the outside, a rate of the pay-out being imposed by a motor ~~acting directly on~~ driving the roving package ~~such that the roving is pushed from the roving package and wherein so that~~ the linear speed of the paid-out roving is constant; then

passing the roving through a nozzle, ~~by-passing wherein the roving passes~~ through an entry and then an exit of the nozzle, the nozzle also provided with a transverse injection of at least one fluid, the at least one fluid being mainly ~~directed~~ introduced in a direction toward the exit of the nozzle, inducing a tension toward a bottom of the roving, the at least one fluid also dividing the roving; and then

throwing the strands forming the roving in an oscillatory movement onto the conveyor belt.

13. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein a speed of the roving paid out is measured by an encoder coupled to a pulley driven by the roving package.

14. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the nozzle presents the at least one fluid with a higher head loss at the entry than at the exit.

15. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the roving includes 2 to 50 strands.

16. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the fluid has a pressure of between 2 and 10 bar.

17. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the nozzle is also fed with water or with an aqueous solution or dispersion.

18. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the tension in the roving between the nozzle and the package is between 50 and 200 grams.

19. (Withdrawn) An installation for manufacturing mats formed from continuous strands coming from roving packages and thrown onto a conveyor belt, comprising:

at least one roving package supported on a spindle;

means for paying out the roving coming from the package;

at least one nozzle through which the roving passes, by passing via an inlet and then an outlet of the nozzle, the nozzle also provided with a transverse injection of at least one fluid, the at least one fluid being directed mainly toward the exit of the nozzle, so as to induce a tension in the roving toward the exit; and

means for throwing the strands forming the roving onto the conveyor belt.

20. (Withdrawn) The installation as claimed in claim 19, wherein a pulley is driven by the paid-out roving, and an encoder is coupled to the pulley measuring the speed of the roving.

21. (Withdrawn) The installation as claimed in claim 19, wherein the nozzle is supported by the means for throwing.

22. (Withdrawn) The installation as claimed in claim 19, including at least two roving packages, each associated with a nozzle.